

RESEARCH ARTICLE



# Capacity building in preparing and identifying the economic potential of Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Aceh Besar Regency

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## ABSTRACT

Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Montasik District, Aceh Besar Regency has local economic potential that has not been documented in a sustainable manner. This community service activity was carried out as a form of the Tridharma of higher education to contribute positively to the community. The main activity carried out was assistance in compiling and identifying local economic potential. The results of this community service activity have increased the understanding and knowledge of village officials and the community regarding the importance of economic potential data. In addition, the results of this assistance also showed an increase in the understanding of village officials and staff in collecting, processing, and analyzing data on economic potential in Piyeung Lhang Village, Montasik District, Aceh Besar Regency. Overall, this community service activity received positive responses from the community, who hoped for its continuation in the future.

## KEYWORDS

Economic Potential, Piyeung Lhang, Community Empowerment

## ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 3 October 2025

Accepted: 28 February 2026

Published: 28 February 2026

## CITATION (APA 7<sup>TH</sup>)

Safwadi, I., Syarifuddin, Zulkifli, & Febrian, N. (2026). Capacity building in preparing and identifying the economic potential of Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Aceh Besar Regency. *International Review of Community Engagement*, 1(5), 317-324. <https://doi.org/10.62941/irce.v1i5.192>

## 1. Introduction

A village is defined as the smallest unit of a country that is directly connected to the community and directly addresses the community's needs for prosperity (Andriyani, Purnamasari et al., 2023). Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages places villages at the forefront of Indonesia's development, giving them the authority to independently administer or manage village governance, development, and financial management (Sakir et al., 2021). Since the issuance of the Village Law, the position of village administration, or in Aceh known as the Gampong Administration, has become increasingly important in the welfare of the community. The Gampong Government can regulate its territory based on principles such as deliberation, independence, participation, empowerment, and sustainability (Arnowo, 2020).

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Efforts to accelerate village development must be supported and involve all stakeholders, the private sector, and all components of society, including universities. As institutions that play a role in educating the nation, universities can be actively involved in encouraging the acceleration of development in villages. In this regard, community service activities (PkM) as one of the forms of the Tri Dharma of higher education are still very relevant to be implemented in villages. Community service is an activity of the academic community that utilizes science and technology to advance the welfare of society and educate the nation. Community service is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the targets of improving quality of life, ending poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the environment (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2024).

Community service in mapping the economic potential of villages is an activity to identify, map, and analyze natural resources (physical) and human resources (non-physical) in a village to develop potential economic sectors such as agriculture, MSMEs, and tourism, with the aim of improving the welfare of the village community through training, mentoring, and empowerment. The purpose of this community service activity is to assist Piyeung Lhang Village in determining development policies through the mapping of economic potential. On the other hand, it aims to increase the capacity of the village community through the mapping of local economic potential, which is a necessity so that the community and village government have sufficient capacity and ability to determine and plan measurable business opportunities and units to be developed (Safwadi et al., 2025).

This community service activity was carried out to assist Gampong Piyeung Lhang in compiling the economic potential of the village, with the high hope of increasing the community's understanding of the economic potential of the village and contributing positively to the development and economic growth of Gampong Piyeung Lhang. Higher education institutions play an important role in developing communities to achieve sustainable development, through one of the pillars of the higher education tridharma, namely community service (Mangindaan, 2021).

This article is the result of community service activities that are an integral part of the real work lecture (KKN) activities of Abulyatama University students assigned to serve in Piyeung Lhang Village, Montasik District, Aceh Besar Regency. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the community service activities, including mentoring and identifying the economic potential of the village. Additionally, it outlines other supporting activities conducted during the community service period in Piyeung Lhang Village. Furthermore, this article provides input and recommendations for improving future community service programs and for the development of the community in Piyeung Lhang Village towards a better and more prosperous future.

This article also serves as a form of transparency and accountability for the PkM activities carried out by Abulyatama University. It is hoped that this article can provide reflection on the experiences gained during the community service activities and serve as a guide for other stakeholders who will carry out community service in the future.

## 2. Methods

Islamic The PkM activity was carried out in Gampong Piyeung Lhang. This village is located in Montasik District, Aceh Besar Regency. Community service in the form of assistance and compilation of village economic potential is a community service activity in which the service team provides guidance to village officials to identify and document local economic potential and problems in the village, which are usually outlined in a village economic profile book. The objectives are to enhance village self-reliance, promote the development of local economic potential, and continuously update village data and information.

The stages of implementing this community service activity can be described as follows:

- a. Preparation Stage: at this stage, instruments/questionnaires will be designed, particularly those related to the economic potential of the village. After the instruments are prepared, observations and interviews will be conducted. In this regard, the community service team, assisted by students, will conduct site visits and interviews with village officials and community members who own businesses, agricultural land, and other business units to gain a deeper understanding.
- b. Implementation Stage: At this stage, assistance will be provided to village officials involved in the preparation and identification of the economic potential of Gampong Piyeung Lhang. This is done to provide an understanding to the village officials involved about the urgency of this activity, including understanding the importance of having a complete, accurate, and up-to-date economic profile of the village. The assistance will take the form of training in data processing, graphing, and the use of data analysis methods that are easy to understand.
- c. Evaluation Stage: This stage involves monitoring the results, where the service team monitors the results of the activities to ensure that the objectives are achieved and any problems are addressed.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Overview of the Service Location

Gampong Piyeung Lhang is one of the villages located in Montasik District, Aceh Besar Regency. This village has a heterogeneous community, with the majority of residents working as farmers, casual laborers, and a few civil servants. The environment in this village is still rich with Acehnese cultural values and customs that have been preserved for generations.

Historically, Gampong Piyeung Lhang is one of the oldest villages in Montasik District. The word "*Piyeung*" comes from the Acehnese language, meaning "*resting place*," while "Lhang" means bay or estuary. This refers to the geographical location of the village, which is close to a waterway.

The geographical position of Gampong Piyeung Lhang is very strategic. In general, the geographical location of Gampong Piyeung Lhang is as follows:

- a. North: bordered by a river;
- b. South: borders a village in Kuta Baro District;
- c. To the east, it borders Gampong Piyeung Datu; and
- d. West: directly borders Weubada;

The population of this village is around 133 people (as of 2024), with the majority being Muslim. The age composition is quite diverse, ranging from children, teenagers, adults to the elderly.

Piyeung Lhang Village has adequate facilities and infrastructure, including: educational facilities such as an elementary school (SD), a kindergarten, and access to junior high and high schools in neighboring villages; a posyandu as a community health center; religious facilities including a mosque and meunasah as centers for religious and social activities; and public infrastructure (village roads) that are mostly paved, although some are still dirt roads, an electricity and clean water network, and adequate communication facilities.

#### 3.2. Main Community Service Activities

The process and stages of implementing the PkM activities carried out from the beginning of the activity to the end of its implementation in Piyeung Lhang Village, Montasik District, can be explained as follows:

##### 3.2.1. Preparation Stage

Considering that this PkM activity is part of the implementation of KKN at Abulyatama University in the even semester of 2024/2025, all licensing and administrative processes related to PkM activities have been submitted and processed in advance by the KKN

Committee Team at Abulyatama University. The administrative process began at the Montasik District Office, Aceh Besar Regency. This was done in order to obtain permission to hold community service activities, as well as to obtain quantitative data and initial field observations for administrative purposes for the activity proposal.

During the preparation stage, the drafting of an objective activity plan also began. The program and activity plan must be agreed upon with the Piyeung Lhang Village apparatus in Montasik Subdistrict, regarding the use of rooms as a place for assistance as well as for observation and field reviews in the Piyeung Lhang Village area in Montasik Subdistrict.

### *3.2.2. Implementation Stage*

The programs and activities carried out in the implementation stage are the core of the PKM activities. The stages are as follows:

#### a. Field observation and interviews

This community service activity was carried out for one month, coinciding with the 2025 Abulyatama University Community Service Program (PkM KKN). At this stage, the community service team visited the location to conduct observations and interviews with the Keuchik Gampong Piyeung Lhang, including gampong staff. From the results of observations and interviews, it was found that Gampong Piyeung Lhang did not yet have an adequate office. In addition, the data on the economic potential of the gampong was not *up to date*. In fact, valid, reliable, and accountable data on the economic potential of the village is essential for village development planning and sustainable community empowerment. The reason for this is none other than the fact that the Piyeung Lhang Village Government has limited staff, in addition to an inadequate budget.

At this stage, interviews were also conducted with community members who have micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), agricultural land, livestock businesses, and other business units. This activity was carried out through observation and direct interviews with the local community located in Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Montasik District.

The entire activity ran smoothly and there were no obstacles in conducting field observations. The community also understood the purpose and objectives of this activity in advance because all residents of Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Montasik District, had been informed. This activity was also successful in achieving its expected targets due to the participation of the community/business actors in this village. In addition, the community hoped for concrete follow-up on the results of the observations and interviews with the local community, especially follow-up on other activities from the Piyeung Lhang Village Government, Montasik District.

Based on preliminary data and findings from observations and interviews, the service team developed solutions to problems and other important issues related to the management of local economic resources based on each business and business unit in Gampong Piyeung Lhang, Montasik District. These proposals were welcomed by the Piyeung Lhang Village Government and will be implemented gradually in the future.

#### b. Assistance Stages

At this stage, assistance was provided to village officials on the urgency of compiling and identifying the village's economic potential, especially in relation to the availability of complete, accurate, and *updated* data for various purposes and benefits. This was done as a concrete effort by the Piyeung Lhang Village Government to provide economic potential data on a regular basis. The guidance activity was attended by village officials and village staff. With a shared perception among village officials regarding the importance of the village's economic potential, the need for complete and *updated* data on the village's economic potential will be placed as one of the priorities of the village program. As a follow-up to this guidance activity, the Keuchik coordinated with village officials, including village staff, to *update* the village's economic potential.

During this mentoring phase, data collection methods were also taught, including how to use online data collection from the community using Google Forms. Currently, internet facilities and access in the village are adequately available. This will make it easier for village staff to collect data on economic potential in Gampong Piyeung Lhang. In addition, the mentoring process also included data processing, creating graphs/tables, creating data infographics, and simple models for analyzing the village's economic potential data. After the assistance phase was completed, the community service team asked the village staff to prepare a draft design for infographics and a design for the village's economic potential. In the final phase, the community service team provided assistance and helped finalize the latest and most up-to-date data on the economic potential of Gampong Piyeung Lhang.

#### c. Constraints/Obstacles to the Assistance Program

As explained at the beginning, the purpose of this community service activity is to provide assistance to the Piyeung Lhang village administration in compiling and preparing data on local economic potential in a sustainable manner. Budiharsono (2022) states that an approach that empowers local economic potential will improve the welfare of the community in a region and can increase economic activity by utilizing local resources and collaborating with local stakeholders. In this regard, economic activities carried out are more resistant to global changes because

stakeholders support the activities and ensure that economic growth remains sustainable, as well as having the potential to increase employment and the quality of workers in the region. In principle, the assistance activities ran smoothly and no significant obstacles were encountered in the field, especially during field reviews.

On the other hand, considering that Gampong Piyeung Lhang does not yet have an adequate village office, including village staff who choose to live in other villages, it is difficult for the service team to provide in-depth assistance. In the future, the Aceh Besar Regency Government must prioritize the construction of a proper Gampong Piyeung Lhang Office so that public service activities can run smoothly for the community.

#### 4. Conclusion

This community service activity was aimed at assisting the Piyeung Lhang Village Government in Montasik Subdistrict in compiling and identifying the village's economic potential to produce comprehensive and *updated* data in the form of a village economic profile. The assistance provided also improved the capabilities and independence of the Piyeung Lhang Village Administration in Montasik Subdistrict to regularly and continuously update data and information related to the village's economic profile. Overall, the programs that have been implemented not only have a direct positive impact but also form a strong foundation for future development in Piyeung Lhang Village, Montasik Subdistrict.

The ongoing PkM programs will continue with improvements in quality and scope. In relation to the activities of assisting in the preparation and identification of local economic potential, efforts to understand the importance of local economic potential data need to be strengthened. It is also hoped that in the future, there will be supporting facilities, including the availability of adequate budgets to support the preparation and identification of more multisectoral and varied village potential, including the strengthening of more adequate information technology.

For the next community service activity in Piyeung Lhang Village, Montasik District, as a follow-up and development of this community service activity. Thus, it can be concluded that this community service activity is in line with the needs and answers the problems of the village, and is in line with the targets and results. This community service activity can also be further developed and expanded in scope. Technology-based data assistance and training activities can be considered for implementation in the future by the Piyeung Lhang Village Government, Montasik District. The program targets village officials, especially young staff. Strengthening and enhancing cooperation with external parties, such as private institutions/businesses, non-governmental organizations/NGOs, and neighboring village governments in the Montasik District, can be considered for

implementation in the future. These efforts are being made to obtain greater support in terms of funding, provision of facilities, and strengthening of human resources. Thus, it is hoped that all of the programs implemented by the Piyeung Lhang Village Government in Montasik Subdistrict can develop well and provide greater benefits to the entire community of Piyeung Lhang Village in Montasik Subdistrict.

### Disclosure statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper

### Acknowledgment

We appreciate the financial support from the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) of Abulyatama University through the Community Service Program (KKN) in Aceh Besar Regency in 2025.

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